Connecting Youth to Nature

Following 2 successful years with this program, Camp was able to host another 75 urban youth from Buffalo and Rochester. These campers spent a full week at camp participating in a variety of activities including: ecology, archery, canoeing, kayaking and outdoor skills. In all, camp has hosted 200 campers in this program. In March, the Disney Conservation Fund released a video that was partially filmed at Wyomoco. Campers were in several shots including one interview.

International Camp Staff

In 2016, camp was able to bring seven international staff members from several countries including Spain, England, Scotland, Australia, and New Zealand. They each brought a variety of skills to their jobs at camp. Some worked as a part of the waterfront team while others taught in the horsemanship program, outdoor skills and fencing. The addition of international staff brings new ideas and great cultural exchange to our campers and families.

Friends & Family Camp

In September, Camp Wyomoco hosted several families for our Friends and Family Weekend. Families spend three days enjoying all the fun activities that campers get to do during the summer, such as boating, hiking, fishing, sports, archery, campfires, arts and crafts and family game night. Again this year, we had some rain, but that didn't keep families and staff from having a wonderful time and some fun camp experiences.

Horse Programs

Camp offers three ways to experience horses at camp: Horse Camp, Horse Focus and Horsemanship Activity. In Horse Camp, campers spend several hours each day riding and learning about horses. In Horse Focus, campers receive riding instruction all morning, while in Horsemanship Activity, novice riders learn about caring for a horse and beginner riding. This year participation increased, resulting in a waiting list in each program.

AmeriCorps

2016 marked the 10th summer that Camp Wyomoco has partnered with the AmeriCorps program. This year AmeriCorps members provided campers with a variety of Environmental Stewardship activities including hosting the first ever BioBlitz in partnership with Monroe Community College. Campers spent the morning identifying the biodiversity of camp and learning about the camp environment and how each of them can protect the natural world. In addition to environmental stewardship, campers also completed 10 physical activities this week as part of the Healthy Futures program. AmeriCorps staff helped campers to carry out service projects for elderly residents that take part in the meals on wheels program. Campers created colorful posters that will be dropped off to people with their daily meals.

Camp Enrollment

Our camp enrollment saw a double digit increase over 2015, rising by 11 percent. In addition to our normal summer resident campers, Wyomoco also hosted campers through the 4-H Connecting Youth to Nature program and Camp-Get-Away.
Horse Program Expands Educational Events

Horse Program members experienced a variety of educational events this spring, expanding to offer clinics, tours of agriculture businesses and hands on workshops. These opportunities allowed members to learn from other knowledgeable adults in the community, as well as grow as a stronger program. Youth enjoyed these new offerings and look forward to more varied educational events this coming spring.

4-H Shooting Sports Travels to Nebraska

In June, Grace Book, Josh Spicer, Rebekah Spicer and Jeffrey Schenk, all members of the Wyoming County Shooting Sports Club traveled to Grand Island, Nebraska to participate in the air rifle events at the National 4-H Shooting Sports Invitational competition. This event was a great experience for the youth and leaders who attended. They learned new skills, made new friends and experienced a scenic part of the country. Overall, the team did well; Jeffrey Schenk placed first in the standing event.

Expanding Livestock Opportunities for Youth

Each year the 4-H Program provides opportunities for youth to expand their knowledge base on a variety of livestock related topics. This past year, members were given fourteen such occasions to choose from. Traditional topics varied from showmanship & fitting clinics, to public presentations and animal nutrition seminars. Youth had opportunities to make animal halters, study cuts of meat and sample a variety of recipes, follow wool from sheep to shawl, explore careers in agriculture, and learn about salesmanship and marketing. These opportunities give youth participants a chance to get together with other livestock members while enhancing their agriculture knowledge.

4-H’ers Participate in a Variety of Food Contests

In an effort to learn about nutrition and practice food presentation skills, sixteen 4-H members presented silent food demonstrations, promoting items from the Empire State, during the annual Wyoming County 4-H Produced in NY State Food Contest held in October. Two additional food contests were held at this year’s Wyoming County Fair - the Groovy Smoothie Contest, where 19 teams, comprised of 65 youth, were challenged to create nutritious, delicious, and visually appealing smoothies and the first ever 4-H Junior Iron Chef Competition where 7 teams, comprised of 27 participants, were provided “fair food” items to reinvent into a healthier and tastier recipe. Both competitions were a huge hit!

Wyoming County 4-H tops 1,000 youth members again this year, finishing out the year with 1,041 total enrolled youth!
Wyoming County Fair

During the Wyoming County Fair, Ag in the Classroom teamed up with the New York State Association of Agricultural Fairs to provide more educational opportunities to the community. A daily reading hour provided fair-goers with the opportunity to read agricultural stories. A poster scavenger hunt taught youth about our local agriculture while they explored the Fair. Daily “make and take” activities such as “Where is Ag?”, potato stamps, corn dig and exploration, flower pens, pinwheels and bird feeders kept the youth active and engaged throughout the week. These projects were met with enthusiasm by the fair-goers and will be present at the Fair for years to come.

The Story of Soil

This lesson encourages students to get messy in the classroom by exploring soil. Students learn about the several layers of soil beneath our feet with a special emphasis on the vital layer of topsoil. Groups explore samples of sand, silt and clay to discover the significant properties and why they are each important to sustain life in our topsoil. The lesson culminates with the creation of edible soil profiles where students test their soil knowledge and their taste buds!

Expansion

As Ag in the Classroom becomes more popular in Wyoming County, the program is expanding to several new school districts. In 2016, Ag in the Classroom started working with six new schools in Senator Gallivan’s 59th Senate District including Warsaw Central, St. Aloysius School, Springville Elementary, Elma Primary School, Wales Primary School, and Marilla Primary School. Ag in the Classroom is becoming increasingly active in Perry Central, Letchworth Central, Arcade Elementary, Attica Central, Holland Central, and Wyoming Central. The Ag in the Classroom program has more than doubled, reaching 27,046 students with 1,502 lessons and is expected to continue to grow in 2017.

Tapping Maple Trees

One of our most requested lessons is the Maple Lesson. With such an interest in this topic, we have started to integrate more about the process. Classrooms in Arcade and Holland Elementary Schools have begun tapping the maple trees on the School’s property. Throughout this project, student’s locate maple trees, decide how many taps the tree should have, put the taps in the trees, check daily for sap, and collect the sap. The sap is then taken to a local Maple Producer where it is boiled and bottled. The syrup is then returned to the classrooms in time for their Pancake Party. At Arcade Elementary, the pancakes are donated by the Arcade McDonald’s. The morning of the party, all of the classrooms who participate in the project go to the cafeteria to enjoy their pancakes. At Holland, the party is held in their classrooms where they invite teachers and administration. The students create a presentation about the process and share the syrup.

AG IN THE CLASSROOM 2016 IMPACT

27,046
Students Reached

1,502
Classroom Lessons
Livestock & Gardening
Growing into Enterprises

Bhutanese entrepreneurs continued to grow and develop enterprises with guidance from CCE educators. The laying hen project started in 2015 was expanded by one family, who is selling eggs. That family and another have raised 3 and 4 groups of broilers on pasture for market to fellow refugees locally and in Rochester. Two families used pasture techniques to grow out three hogs. Half of the meat was for consumption by their families and the remainder was sold in their community. Each family is receiving instruction on the use of Quickbooks to record the receipts and expenses associated with their enterprise. This collaborative effort between Wyoming County Community Action and Cornell Cooperative Extension is funded with a Community Services Block Grant. The grant was received from the New York State Department of State through the consolidated funding process.

Season Extended Speciality Crops

Local Bhutanese Refugees have been working with CCE Educator Don Gasiewicz, to demonstrate growing Dahil Khursani and Saille peppers, late season Marigolds, and Oyster Mushrooms, using season extension technology as part of a project funded by the Genesee Valley Regional Market Authority. In addition, the refugees introduced us to an heirloom eggplant variety they call “Bee”, which is grown in more southern regions of the country and called pumpkin on a stick or ornamental eggplant.

Maple

CCE’s workshop on Maple Tubing with Steve Childs, Cornell Maple Specialist to teach techniques for installing and maintaining tubing systems. In January, 130 producers and vendors attended the WNY Maple School offering a variety of classes. Brian Mohler and Jesse Benedict introduced their new ultraviolet sap sanitizing unit they have brought to the market.

Homesteading Class and Twilight Tours Launched

A new workshop and tour series targeted people interested in growing and preserving more of their own food brought 28 people to a winter class covering livestock keeping, grazing, vegetable gardening, home canning and developing markets. During the summer, tours included a small scale beef grazing operation, the refugees’ garden plot, pastured poultry and hogs and season extension using high tunnel technology.
Feeder Basics

Feeder Basics taught in a one-day format integrating lecture and on-farm learning was offered for both English and Spanish speaking workers. Of the 40 people who attended, about a quarter of the participants were Spanish-speaking. Bilingual dairy specialist Libby Eiholzer translated the class for them. Collaboration with a local dairy nutritionist at each of the two locations, brought great practical expertise to the course. Feeders handle materials on a daily basis which account for over 50% of the farm’s expenses, so insuring that they have the right skills to limit waste and feed cows accurately has a huge impact on a dairy farm’s overall profitability.

Hoof Trimming

A new hoof trimming course focused on teaching participants how to identify cows before they become clinically lame and how to treat them quickly and effectively. 25 participating dairy farmers and their employees, including 17 Spanish speaking, are now equipped with the skills to save their farm thousands of dollars each year, simply by identifying and treating lame cows before they become severely lame. Renowned local hoof trimmer Chip Hendrickson and his Canadian colleague Vic Daniels taught the classes and Libby Eiholzer provided translation. Each case of lameness prevented has the potential to save $300 to $500. An older study estimated that if a heard was able to improve their incidence of lameness from average to excellent they could save the farm almost $5,000 annually in treatment costs and lost revenue per 100 cows. On a 1,000 cow dairy, that’s nearly $50,000 per year in savings.

Forage Quality Education

Forage quality education brought out crop managers from six farms and two consultants to expand their knowledge of quality feed production. In evaluations, participants indicated they would make changes in forage pest management, use of triticale for forage, crop rotation and soil health improvement. Forage produced on the farms who participated in the course feed more than 8,990 cows and 7,850 replacement heifers. These managers control over $100 million in crop and machinery expenses. They are also responsible for protecting the environment while growing forage crops on 14,900 acres.
Women Landowners Learn Benefits of Conservation Projects

Women farmland owners, 10 in all, learned how to increase the adoption of conservation practices on their land by strengthening their relationship with the farm operators who lease from them. CCE hosted a day-long pilot Caring for the Land Learning Circle in Warsaw where women learned together about soil health and farming practices to include in their lease agreement in order to promote the implementation of conservation practices. Many questions were answered about programs that can help them achieve their conservation goals. Local collaborators included: USDA Farm Service Agency, Genesee Valley Conservancy and NYS Department of Environmental Conservation and Western New York Crop Management Association. Moving forward, the NWNY Team is planning to collaborate with American Farmland Trust to seek resources for a three year project to develop educational tools for landowners to use with their lessees to improve soil health and prevent runoff in the Genesee Valley Watershed, from the Great Lakes Protection Fund, who funded the Learning Circle.

Working through the Drought

The hot, dry summer challenged producers’ abilities to produce adequate, quality forages. The NWNY Team provided business owners resources focused on implementing best management practices for harvesting, storing and feeding drought compromised forages in their September 2016 issue of Ag Focus. An expanded selection of drought resources were posted to the Team’s website for digging deeper into the issues surrounding and thriving beyond the drought. NYS Department Agriculture and Markets highlighted these resources in their recently released Drought Resource Guide. The Team also provided background information on the severity of the drought to the Director of Cornell Cooperative Extension and the Commissioner of Agriculture prior to their WNY Tour to evaluate the impact of the season on local farms.

The Next Generation

Learn about Extension

Five interns, three with Wyoming County roots, worked with the team on projects ranging from, precision agriculture to beef farm financial analysis. Chelsey Downs-Rudgers from SUNY Morrisville, worked with Joan Petzen and farms across WNY on the Beef Farm Business Summary. Peter Bertoldo, also from Attica, scouted malting barley for pests under the direction of Mike Stanyard. The remaining interns were part of the CCE Summer Internship Program that helps Cornell meet its land grant mission by engaging students in outreach. College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALS) students, worked with faculty and Extension mentors to complete a summer project and present their work through posters. Lindsey Chamberlain, from Wyoming, worked with truthing precision agriculture technologies with Mike Stanyard. Dennis Atiyeh worked on estroush synchronization and artificial insemination in beef with small farms specialist Nancy Glazier. Brooke Ryan collected surveys from dairy employees and employers in a project with Libby Eiholzer to evaluate the working environment on dairies in the region.
These charts are a visual representation of the sources from which the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Wyoming County has gained financial support.

**2016 BUDGET**

BUDGET TOTAL: $2,031,848.39

- COUNTY 18% $364,400.00
- STATE 31% $633,054.79
- FEDERAL 4% $79,730.00
- GRANT/OTHER 47% $954,633.60

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